

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) A sample holder for a mass spectrometer characterized in that it contains a coating comprising silicone and graphite.
2. (Original) Sample holder according to claim 1, wherein the coating layer having a thickness of 0,01 to 1 mm.
3. (Currently Amended) Sample holder according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the coating contains 1 parts by weight of graphite: 100 parts by weight silicone to 70 parts by weight graphite: 100 parts by weight silicone
4. (Original) Sample holder according to claim 3, wherein the coating contains 10 parts by weight graphite: 100 parts by weight silicone to 30 parts by weight graphite: 100 parts by weight silicone.
5. (Currently Amended) Sample holder according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the coating is prepared by polymerizing a silicone-forming monomer or prepolymer in the presence of graphite.
6. (Original) Use of silicone and graphite for coating a sample holder for a mass spectrometer.
7. (Original) A method of analyzing a sample in a mass spectrometer comprising the steps
  - (a) providing a sample holder containing a coating comprising silicone and graphite,
  - (b) applying the sample onto the sample holder and

(c) performing a mass spectrometry analysis of the sample.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7 further comprising a step (b1) washing the sample holder after application of the sample thereto to remove contaminations from the sample.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein the washing step b1, salt contaminations are removed.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any of claims 7-9~~ claim 7, wherein the mass spectrometry analysis comprises a laser desorption step.

11. (Original) Use of a mixture comprising silicone and graphite in mass spectrometric analysis.

12. (Currently Amended) Use according to claim 6 ~~or 11~~, wherein the mixture comprises 1 parts by weight of graphite: 100 parts by weight silicone to 70 parts by weight of graphite: 100 parts by weight silicone.

13. (Currently Amended) Use according to claim 6 ~~or 11 or 12~~, wherein the mixture is provided in a thickness of from 0,01 to 1 mm.